



**HBCU/MSI Technology Infusion Road
Tour
NASA Mentor-Protégé Agreement
Success Story & Lessons Learned
March 28th, 2018**



Many images contained herein courtesy of NASA



Prime Contract at Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)

▶ Mission Operations and Integration (MO&I) Contract

- ◆ Scope: Provide Operations in support of the International Space Station (ISS) at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, AL and Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, TX.
- ◆ Includes mission preparation (plan), crew and flight controller training (train), and real-time (fly) requirements for spaceflight operations support.



Mentor-Protege Agreement (MPA)

- ▶ **Two Concurrent MPAs with HBCU/MSI Universities**
 - ▶ **Alabama State University (ASU)**
 - ▶ **University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)**
- ◆ Period of Performances: August 2015 – July 2016
- ◆ Agreements: 100% engineering and technical based
- ◆ Focus: Exposing the University teams to the International Space Station (ISS) Operations on the MO&I contract and providing real life work experience for the students



Successes

- ▶ Allowed Universities to gain valuable past performance and opened opportunities for support on other NASA contracts
- ▶ Provided Universities underlying knowledge to assist with writing proposals needed to sponsor experiments on board the International Space Station (ISS)
- ▶ Universities produced multi-media products for the TBE Payload Developer (PD) training team and as well as Ground Support Personnel (GSP). Two students also supported a task allowing them to gain an understanding of the Space Launch Systems (SLS) vehicle launch support requirements



Successes

- ◆ Based on outstanding level of support:
 - ◆ 3 students hired full time upon their graduation
 - ◆ Full Time PhD brought on to assist with curriculum development and task order assignment on the MO&I contract
 - ◆ Subcontracts provided directly to ASU & UNLV to continue the work
 - ◆ TBE continuing discussions with both universities to engage in ISS R&D projects and other partnerships



Why Were We Successful?

Communication:

- ◆ Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
– this really is the key to success

Partnership:

- ◆ Both entities must partner together throughout the entire agreement

Participation:

- ◆ Faculty and Staff involvement is necessary and critical to the success of the MPA

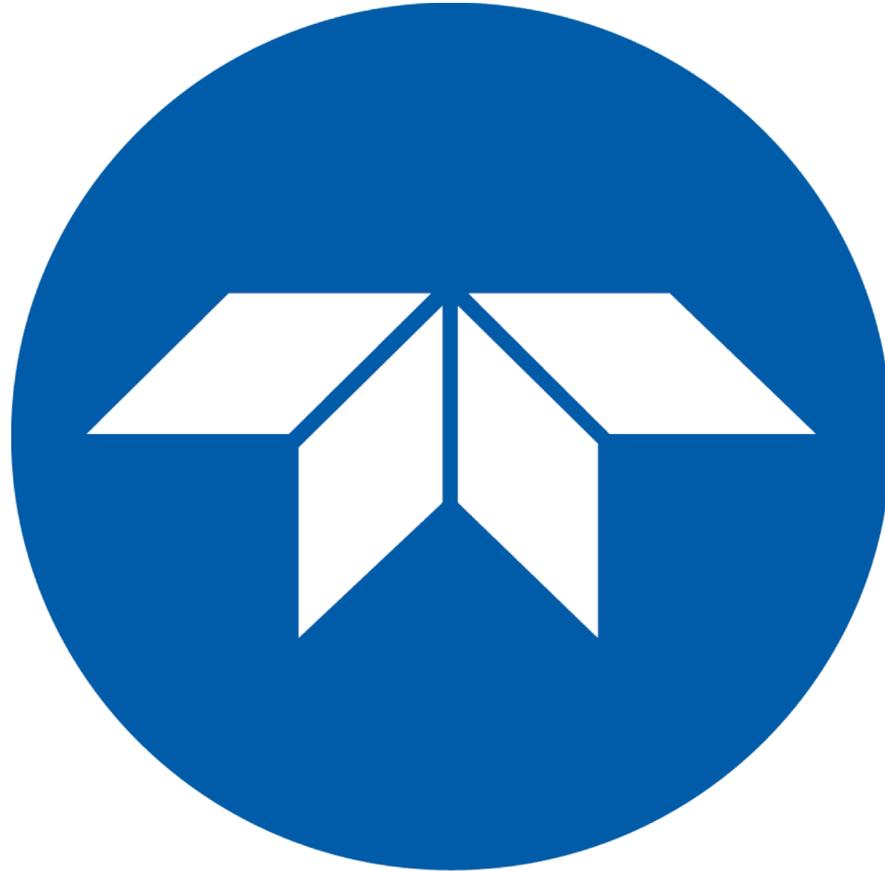


UNLV Mentor-Protege Teaming

► Tips

- ◆ Logistics:
 - ◆ Does your work location have any restrictions? (ie: requirement for US Citizenship)
 - ◆ Is geographical distance a challenge?
 - ◆ Evaluate working remotely or establishing an alternative work schedule.
 - ◆ Transportation / Housing
 - ◆ Start the agreement at a time that works well with the school calendar for reporting requirements and participation
 - ◆ Preselect students before agreement is in place
- ◆ Faculty and Staff involvement is necessary and critical to the success of the MPA
- ◆ Reduce Student Turnover
- ◆ Corporate-academia partnerships require flexibility, open communication and collaboration.





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